Strike by the IACS staff

*68. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scientists and non-academic staff of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) in Calcutta went on a protest strike on April 12, 1988 over pay revision and working conditions; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Firing in the Siachen area

*69. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian troops in the Siachen area had to open fire when some suspicious movement was noticed on the Pakistan side on the 13th April, 1988;

(b) whether the Minister of Defence with a team was also at the Siachen Glacier on the 13th April, 1988 when the Indian troops took this action; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and what further steps have been taken by Government to closely watch the suspicious movements of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) On 13th April, 1988, while Raksha Mantri along with Defence Secretary and senior officers of the Army and the Air Force were in the Siachen area, our artillery guns opened fire when some suspicious movements were observed on the Pakistani side.

Our troops maintain constant vigilance in the Siachen area and take necessary measures for its defence. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

Max project of the CDOT

*70. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MAX project of the C-DOT is progressing satisfactorily; and

(b) if so, by when commercial production of the same is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The C-DOT MAX project is progressing satisfactorily within the overall objective of setting up of a new switching factory for commercial production during the 7th Plan period.

(b) The commercial production of C-DOT MAX is expected to start as below:

512	Port MAX	—End 1988
16000	Port MAX	—End 1988

Bharat Electronics Limited factory at Kotdwar, Garhwal, U.P.

*71. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the setting up of the BEL factory at Kotdwar, Garhwal in U.P.;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred so far in this regard, item-wise;

(c) by when the factory is likely to be commissioned; and

(d) what is the number of people employed therein at present together with the number of local people among them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Civil works are almost complete and production in hired sheds commenced in March, 1986.

(b) The expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 13.51 crores against the total sanctioned cost of Rs. 21.00 crores.

(c) Production commenced in factory complex in April 1987. The project will be completed as per schedule in September, 1989.

(d) There are at present 275 persons, including 53 executives, employed in the project. Of the 222 non-executives approximately 150 belong to Pauri Garhwal district.

Implementation of poverty eradication and employment generation programmes

*72. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently stressed for greater emphasis on agricultural planning, poverty eradication and employment generation programmes;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government for the implementation of the above programmes; and

(c) whether Government have requested the various States to implement the above programmes by constituting State-level Committees and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has recently formulated a Frame-Work Action Plan for achieving foodgrains production level of at least 175 million tonnes by 1989-90. The Frame-Work Action Plan adopts a selective approach for districts having potential for higher production which can be realised in a short period. The strategy frame of the Action Plan envisages the identification of production constraints operating in 169 selected districts in 14 States and the measures required to remove them. The action plan was discussed in the National Development Council as well as the conference of Chief Ministers. Detailed district-wise action plans are to be prepared by the State Governments to be operationalised by kharif 1988.

In addition, the major poverty eradication and employment generation programmes viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are being continued during the Seventh Plan with the objective of raising the incomes and productivity of people below the poverty line. The Government has taken a number of steps for the better implementation of the programmes, which are indicated below :—

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

(i) As against the criteria of uniform allocation per block in the Sixth Plan 50 per cent funds were allocated on incidence of poverty and 50 per cent on uniform allocation per block for the first two years of the Seventh Plan. During 1987-88 two thirds of the funds were allocated on incidence of poverty and one third on uniform allocation per block. 75 per cent funds are to be allocated on the incidence of poverty and 25 per cent on uniform basis per block during 1988-89.

(ii) A higher investment per family. including a multiple pacakge, has been envisaged.

(iii) Supplementary dose is being provided to those families, which were assisted during the Sixth Plan, but could not cross the poverty line.